What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method of preparing information usable in theft detection using radio frequency

2   identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:

3   creating a unique correlator value, for a current transaction, as a function of one or more

4   values;

5   storing the unique correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items

6   presented for purchase in the current transaction; and

7   storing the unique correlator value on a receipt prepared for the current transaction.

1   2.   The method according to Claim 1, wherein the unique correlator value on the receipt is

2   stored in an RFID tag affixed thereto.

1   3.   A method of detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification ("RFID")

2   technology, comprising steps of:

3   reading, from a transaction receipt, a correlator value;

4   searching, in an RFID tag affixed to each or one or more items possessed by a shopper

5   who also possesses the transaction receipt, for the correlator value; and

6   concluding that at least some of the one or more items possessed by the shopper were not

7   paid for if the correlator value is not located in the searching step.

1   4.   The method according to Claim 3, wherein the unique correlator value on the transaction

2   receipt is stored in an RFID tag affixed thereto.

1   5.   The method according to Claim 3, wherein the reading step is performed by a human, and

2   wherein a human-readable representation of a result of the searching step is presented for use in

3   the concluding step.

1   6.   The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

2   initially creating the correlator value as a unique correlator value for a current transaction,

3   using as input one or more values;

4   previously storing the initially-created correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of

5   one or more items presented for purchase in the current transaction, prior to operation of the

6   searching step; and

7   storing the unique correlator value on the transaction receipt prepared for the current

8   transaction, prior to operation of the reading step.

1   7.   The method according to Claim 3, wherein the concluding step concludes that selected

2   ones of the possessed items were paid for if the correlator value of the selected ones reflects a

3   previous transaction.

1   8.   The method according to Claim 3, wherein the concluding step concludes that selected

2   ones of the possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in the shopper's possession

3   when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction reflected by the transaction

4   receipt was conducted.

1   9.   The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the step of remembering each item

2   that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a

3   transaction reflected by the transaction receipt was conducted, and wherein the searching and

4   concluding steps do not apply to the remembered items.

1   10.   A system for preparing information usable in theft detection using radio frequency

2   identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

3   means for creating a unique correlator value, for a current transaction, as a function of one

4   or more values;

5   means for storing the unique correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of one or

6   more items presented for purchase in the current transaction; and

7   means for storing the unique correlator value on a receipt prepared for the current

8   transaction.

1   11.   The system according to Claim 10, wherein the unique correlator value on the receipt is

2   stored in an RFID tag affixed thereto.

1   12.   A system for detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification ("RFID")

2   technology, comprising:

3   means for reading, from a transaction receipt, a correlator value;

4   means for searching, in an RFID tag affixed to each or one or more items possessed by a

5   shopper who also possesses the transaction receipt, for the correlator value; and

6   means for concluding that at least some of the one or more items possessed by the shopper

7   were not paid for if the correlator value is not located by the means for searching.

1   13.   The system according to Claim 12, wherein the unique correlator value on the transaction

2   receipt is stored in an RFID tag affixed thereto.

1   14.   The system according to Claim 12, wherein the means for reading is performed by a

2   human, and wherein a human-readable representation of a result of the means for searching is

3   presented for use by the means for concluding.

1   15.   The system according to Claim 12, further comprising:

2   means for initially creating the correlator value as a unique correlator value for a current

3   transaction, using as input one or more values;

4   means for previously storing the initially-created correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to

5   each of one or more items presented for purchase in the current transaction, prior to operation of

6   the means for searching; and

7   means for storing the unique correlator value on the transaction receipt prepared for the

8   current transaction, prior to operation of the means for reading.

1   16.   The system according to Claim 12, wherein the means for concluding concludes that

2   selected ones of the possessed items were paid for if the correlator value of the selected ones

3   reflects a previous transaction.

1   17.   The system according to Claim 12, wherein the means for concluding concludes that

2   selected ones of the possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in the shopper's

3   possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction reflected by the

4   transaction receipt was conducted.

1   18.   The system according to Claim 12, further comprising means for remembering each item

2   that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a

3   transaction reflected by the transaction receipt was conducted, and wherein the means for

4   searching and means for concluding do not apply to the remembered items.

1   19.   A computer program product for preparing information usable in theft detection using

2   radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on

3   one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

4   computer-readable program code means for creating a unique correlator value, for a

5   current transaction, as a function of one or more values;

6   computer-readable program code means for storing the unique correlator value in an

7   RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items presented for purchase in the current transaction;

8   and

9   computer-readable program code means for storing the unique correlator value on a

10   receipt prepared for the current transaction.

1   20.   The computer program product according to Claim 19, wherein the unique correlator

2   value on the receipt is stored in an RFID tag affixed thereto.

1   21.   A computer program product for detecting potential theft using radio frequency

2   identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on one or more

3   computer-readable media and comprising:

4   computer-readable program code means for reading, from a transaction receipt, a

5   correlator value;

6   computer-readable program code means for searching, in an RFID tag affixed to each or

7   one or more items possessed by a shopper who also possesses the transaction receipt, for the

8   correlator value; and

9   computer-readable program code means for concluding that at least some of the one or

10   more items possessed by the shopper were not paid for if the correlator value is not located by the

11   computer-readable program code means for searching.

1   22.   The computer program product according to Claim 21, wherein the unique correlator

2   value on the transaction receipt is stored in an RFID tag affixed thereto.

1   23.   The computer program product according to Claim 21, wherein the computer-readable

2   program code means for reading is performed by a human, and wherein a human-readable

3   representation of a result of the computer-readable program code means for searching is

4   presented for use by the computer-readable program code means for concluding.

1   24.   The computer program product according to Claim 21, further comprising:

2   computer-readable program code means for initially creating the correlator value as a

3   unique correlator value for a current transaction, using as input one or more values;

4   computer-readable program code means for previously storing the initially-created

5   correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items presented for purchase in the

6   current transaction, prior to operation of the computer-readable program code means for

7   searching; and

8   computer-readable program code means for storing the unique correlator value on the

9   transaction receipt prepared for the current transaction, prior to operation of the computer-

10   readable program code means for reading.

1   25.   The computer program product according to Claim 21, wherein the computer-readable

2   program code means for concluding concludes that selected ones of the possessed items were

3   paid for if the correlator value of the selected ones reflects a previous transaction.

1   26.   The computer program product according to Claim 21, wherein the computer-readable

2   program code means for concluding concludes that selected ones of the possessed items were

3   paid for if those selected ones were in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an

4   establishment in which a transaction reflected by the transaction receipt was conducted.

1   27.   The computer program product according to Claim 21, further comprising computer-

2   readable program code means for remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession

3   when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction reflected by the transaction

4   receipt was conducted, and wherein the computer-readable program code means for searching

5   and computer-readable program code means for concluding do not apply to the remembered

6   items.